

Acting Assistant Director, GRR

10 October 1960

Chief, Geographic Research

GRA Contribution to the Semi-Annual Report to the President's Board  
of ConsultantsI. Economic and Geographic Intelligence ProductionB. Geographic

Special geographic intelligence studies were prepared in response to developments in several critical foreign areas. The viability of the mineral-producing provinces of the Republic of the Congo was assessed in a report for use in briefings of the Democratic Presidential nominee and the National Security Council. A more comprehensive analysis of the Congo for general reference use is now in reproduction. The geographic elements of growing security problems in South Vietnam were also dealt with in a study carried out during the period. Continued attention was given to the needs of the clandestine services and the Department of State for information on unstable political boundaries and conflicting territorial claims in key regions of the world.

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These studies represent a continuation of GRR's intensive research directed at correcting critical deficiencies in the intelligence required on those key areas. Comprehensive research on the Kurdish peoples of the Near East, noted in the previous report, is now about three-quarters completed.

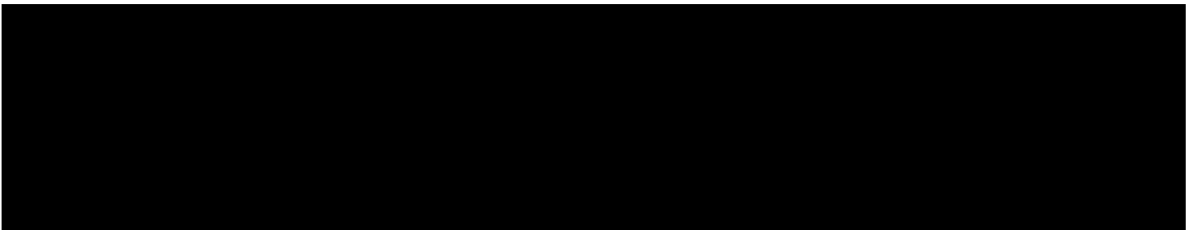
Priority effort, in coordination with Army and Air Force, continued to be applied to the verification of suspected missile sites in the Sino-Soviet Bloc. Detailed analysis of the terrain, drainage, population, and other geographic characteristics has proved to be very helpful in this task. We are also continuing

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The lack of detailed intelligence map coverage of Soviet cities which has handicapped operational, collection, and analysis activities is being gradually corrected. Plans of 20 cities have been produced, and a new priority list of 12 additional cities is now in work.



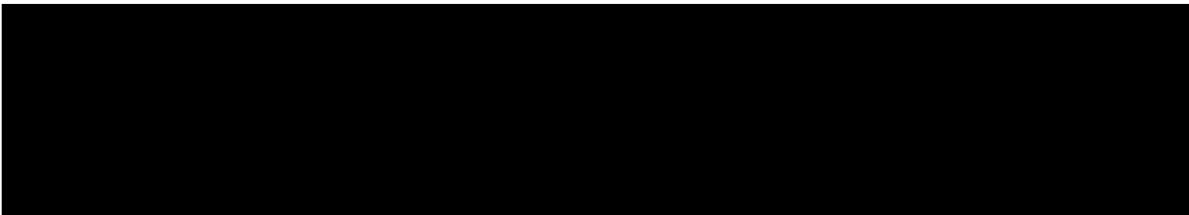
## **II. Major Intelligence Gaps**

### **B. Geographic**

The acquisition of large-scale post-war topographic map coverage of the Sino-Soviet Bloc continues to be one of the highest priorities for collection action. During the past few months a few photo-copies of topographic sheets of the East German Republic have been acquired, but the quality of photography was low. The post-war sheets are of great significance to the accurate positioning of targets, the missiles program, and related photographic programs.

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Priority research on Latin America and areas of interior Asia continued to be marked by the absence of sources of basic geographic data. Reliable large-scale maps, photography, and field studies are lacking over most of the two regions and have seriously handicapped the preparation of essential studies for operational and planning use.



Lack of information on developing social organizations and human relationships in Africa continues to be of concern. Consideration is being given to the development of an external research contract as a partial solution.

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### III. Dissemination and Utilization of GCR Products

#### B. Geographic Intelligence

An unclassified atlas of Soviet administrative maps was disseminated to the major private centers engaged in research on the USSR with the objective of aiding and stimulating such research to the net benefit of the U.S. intelligence effort. The volume also makes available to scholars map coverage of the USSR at a scale considerably larger than is currently available in atlas form.

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Special briefings were provided to the Commander, North American Defense Command and his senior staff concerning Soviet activities in Antarctica, particularly in geodetic surveying which would make feasible the use of Antarctica as a mid-course guidance point in circumventing the North American early warning defense system. Special Antarctic maps were supplied to the U.S. Senate in connection with the ratification of the Antarctic Treaty.

Analyses of Soviet strategic interest in gravity data were incorporated in Department of Commerce studies to deny sales of superior Free World gravity meters to the Sino-Soviet Bloc.

During the period of this report, 889 maps and charts were completed and published in intelligence publications. The NIS program, NIE's, the Travel Folder Program, and various economic and geographic reports absorbed 89% of the production of maps and charts. Maps to accompany various urban and geographic studies for the DD/P accounted for 7% of the total. The Department of State, which relies on the Geographic Research Area for its map needs, and the DD/S absorbed the remainder of the maps and charts produced and disseminated.

### IV. Guidance to Collectors and Intelligence Collection Activities

#### B. Geographic Intelligence

The geographic intelligence effort to strengthen the collection program on guided missiles continued on a priority basis. This

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As a further step in our program to provide the clandestine services with guidance in the collection of Sino-Soviet Bloc topographic maps, we have begun detailed study of the actual intelligence value of recently secured sheets of the East German 1:25,000 series. Results of the study will help in assessing the degree of effort that should be invested in this growing collection activity.

A continuous program is being conducted to provide support information to clandestine services for use in their attempts to obtain the topographic maps mentioned earlier. This support consists of factual information on persons, places, and installations involved with the production, storage, or use of topographic maps. Numerous papers have been prepared which provide the type of information basic to a successful operation. This information is obtained from various sources, including overt interrogations, conference exploitation, reviews of pertinent source materials and other means.

Recent travel to Eastern Europe has contributed to this program. The Geographic Attache stationed in Bonn has traveled in Poland, and the Coordinator for Maps of the Department of State visited Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria. These missions have resulted in increased contacts between geographers and cartographers, a basis for invitations to Bloc cartographers to visit the U.S. and the acquisition of information on mapping organizations and personnel from all these countries. The establishment of new small-scale map exchanges in some of these countries also provide opportunity for regular correspondence and contact with these organizations.

V. Coordination

B. Geographic Intelligence


A gratifying increase in inter-agency cooperation on Africa has developed as pressures in that area increasingly involve the United States. ORR's informal Africa Roundtable which provides opportunity for interested specialists to exchange ideas and information has now been broadened to include representatives of other

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intelligence agencies. Coincident with this, a series of inter-agency meetings, chaired by the Department of State, have probed the problem of covert collection in Africa. Informal CIA groups concerned with Southeast Asia and the Arctic will be placed on a similar inter-agency basis when desirable and feasible.

Increased coordination has been noted in Intelligence Community surveillance of Soviet geodetic activities, agreement on U.S. information gaps, and search for geodetic data on Soviet areas. The closest coordination continues with the Department of State and the National Science Foundation for the development of intelligence collection potential through provisions of the Antarctic Treaty.

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